

**REMARKS**

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested. Claims 1-72 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-27, 29, 31, 39-41, 53-56, and 69-72 have been withdrawn by this amendment.

Applicants have amended the pending claims in an effort to correct a few minor informalities. These amendments do not change the scope of the claims, nor have they been made for any prior-art reasons.

The Examiner has required an election in the present application between:

Groups I-XIV, illustrated in Figs. 1-150.

**For the purpose of examination of the present application, Applicants elect Group XII, illustrated in Figs. 93, 99-122, 127-140, and 144-149, with traverse.**

Claim(s) 28, 30, 32-38, 42-52, and 57-68 are directed to the elected species.

**Conclusion**

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Martin Geissler (Reg. No. 51,011) at the telephone number below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application:

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By 

Michael K. Mutter, #29,680

MKM/MRG:tm  
1560-0377P

P.O. Box 747  
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747  
(703) 205-8000